

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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MISCHIEVOUS APES OF GIBRALTAR

LAWLESS PENSIONERS OF THE FORTRESS ROCK

WHEN a question concerning the ape colony on the Rock of Gibraltar was raised in Parliament recently the Colonial Secretary was able to give an assurance that the apes continued to enjoy their 4d-a-day subsistence allowance, and that this was sufficient to feed them. He added that the apes (whose numbers Mr Churchill when Prime Minister had directed should be maintained at 24) were in excellent health, and that there were now 30 of them.

A CN correspondent who was at one time resident in Gibraltar recalls a few impressions of these lawless pensioners of the Rock.

What spoilt, mischievous creatures these apes are, he writes. At any hour of the day one might receive the attentions of a harmless but predatory visitor from the colony where they lived high among the burned scrub and rocks above the town. Sometimes a brown, quick-moving patch among the heights would be all that was seen of the apes on that day. At other times

their boldness would bring them among the clustered houses, and nobody would be safe from their thieving raids.

A loud scream from the kitchen in the summer twilight, the arrival of the cook, trembling with excitement on the patio, and her tale of a monkey as big as a house would warn the household that one of the apes had taken a fancy to the vegetables lying just inside the kitchen window.

NOTE-WORTHY PARTING

BEFORE parting with their banknotes, many people scribble comments on them. Bankers meet examples every day, and a bank cashier has just listed some of these comments in the staff magazine of the British Linen Bank.

The commonest is the wish "Haste ye back." Other hopeful scribblers write "Better loved ye cannot be, will ye no' come back again?" One scribbler waxed lyrical in the following verse:

*Farewell, my note, and where-so'er ye wend,
Shun gaudy scenes, and be the poor man's friend.
You've left a poor man—go to one as poor
And drive despair and hunger from his door.*

AS OTHERS SEE HIM



Lord Rowallan, the Chief Scout, inspects a wax effigy of himself that has been set up at Madame Tussaud's exhibition in London.

Unusual visitor

And there was the tale of the wife of a British official who, on waking one morning, was aware of a presence in her room that was not the British official. Peeping from under the bed-sheet she saw a figure seated at her dressing-table inspecting itself in the mirror, while it played, most intelligently, with her best tortoiseshell comb.

She screamed. The intruder turned round and left very hurriedly. So did the tortoiseshell comb—to join the giant cache of other ape-stolen property high up by the Signal Station.

On blazing summer middays high on the stone parapet the apes would sprawl in the sunshine, looking down on Main-street, with its strolling hawkers, and gharries with flapping canopies. It was their favourite retreat, and there it was that the garrison, whose business it was to see that the ape colony was supplied with food, would spread fruit and tit-bits.

Encouragement

Quite deliberately we encouraged our simian population in their greed, and would bring down further offerings well knowing that, on that very night, our kitchen quarters, wired and barred though they were, might be pillaged.

But anyone who has ever lived on the Rock knows the pride he really has in the apes. Half-wild, half-tame, they are the last apes in Europe—petted, pampered, kept alive by the dotting Gibraltar British whom they plunder, and who, perhaps, though they would not admit it, have more than a little respect for an old Spanish superstition which says that so long as the apes stay on the Rock the British will stay there too.



SHIP AHOY!

From the Semaphore Tower at Portsmouth Dockyard two girls of the WRNS communications branch get in touch with a war-ship in the harbour.

Exploring realms of extreme cold

SUPER-REFRIGERATORS, used for laboratory work, reduce temperatures to within a fraction of a degree of absolute zero (minus 459.69 degrees Fahrenheit). And then all sorts of queer things can happen.

Scientists have discovered "perpetual motion" near the absolute zero of temperature. Frozen to such limits, lead has no electrical resistance. Dutch scientists made a ring of lead and kept it at this temperature. They started an electric current

flowing round the ring, and it has been flowing ever since. It will keep on going as long as the lead ring is kept at that critical temperature where its resistance disappears.

Frozen rubber will not bounce. A super-cooled rubber ball dropped to the floor will shatter just like a glass sphere. Just above absolute zero, liquid helium will flow upwards against gravity. Metals crumble into dust at the lightest touch and liquid oxygen is attracted by a magnet.

These low temperature researches, however, are not aimed at finding curiosities; their real purpose is to produce better steels, glass, and rubber, more powerful petrol, and so on, as well as new industrial methods.

One recent discovery concerns a "refrigerated" radio crystal which is super-sensitive to even the faintest radio waves. This, some scientists think, may be the basis for a new type of radio receiver which will need the minimum of electrical components and no ordinary power supply.

ON TOP OF HIS JOB

AT a recent conference it was reported that an area gas board chairman on holiday visited a gasworks which was being run by a one-man management.

He found the man seated on top of the gasholder, reading a newspaper. Asked why he was up there, he replied, "I always sit on the holder at midday on Sunday just to give them a little extra pressure."

EXTRA PASSENGER ABOARD

PERTH Zoo in Western Australia has just acquired a blue crane (white-faced heron) under somewhat unusual circumstances.

Exhausted by its uneven struggle with a gale, the bird had landed in one of the lifeboats of the inter-state liner *Duntroon*, and had later hopped on to the deck.

Then it was locked up in the stern wheelhouse until the liner reached Perth, having been fed on fish caught for it by the ship's bo'sun.

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PERSIAN PROBLEM

THE decision of the Persian Majlis (Parliament) to nationalise the country's oil industry has brought a new international crisis to the Middle East; for the maintenance of friendly relations between the free countries and Persia, which links the Middle East with Pakistan, was never more important than it is today.

In previous articles the CN has explained why the Middle East, placed as it is at the crossroads of our hemisphere, must be looked upon as an area of the greatest strategic importance. The Middle East, and this includes all countries from Greece to Persia, is a vast land barrier between the Russian bloc and the free world, and therefore a keystone in western defence.

There is also another very important fact. Many of the Middle East countries—Persia, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait—are great producers of oil; and, of course, oil is essential to modern civilisation.

Thus everything which is happening in the Middle East, be it good or bad, favourable or unfavourable, is of importance to the Great Powers of the world.

Against this background an agreed solution of the Persian oil crisis can be seen to be vital to democratic progress. But first let us look at the essential facts of the oil business of that country.

Immense oilfields

Persia (or Iran as she is sometimes called) has immense undeveloped oilfields. Now, these oilfields are Persian property; but oil is useless while it remains underground, and it is a fact that Persia, with her extremely poor technical equipment and knowledge, could not possibly bring the crude petroleum to the surface, refine it, and sell it on the world markets.

It is for this reason that the Persian Government agreed to lease the right to exploit her oil resources to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company until the year 1933. The agreement says that after that year all the installations,

refineries, and so on (which incidentally cost immense sums of money to build) will become Persian property without any payment.

For this right the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company has been paying four shillings for each ton of oil mined. So tremendous was the output of their oilfields that the Persians were receiving as much as £13,000,000 in royalties in a single year.

The Persians were not satisfied with this payment, and in 1948 the Company suggested an increase of the royalty payments to six shillings a ton, with another shilling as tax. Had the Persians agreed to this proposal their annual receipts from oil-mining would have increased to £22,000,000; but they have never agreed.

Nationalisation

Recently yet another idea was put forward, based on the principle of the equal sharing of profits between the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and the Persian State. But before this matter could be properly discussed the Persian Parliament passed its resolution approving the principle of nationalisation of the oil industry.

The strong British note sent to Persia the other day shows that her nationalisation, or appropriation, of British oil interests would be quite illegal, as the oil agreement has another 42 years to run. Apart from this argument there is another which Persian politicians must consider: it is easier to decree nationalisation than to run a nationalised industry efficiently. Persia has few technicians, engineers, and the other specialists absolutely essential to the oil industry.

Coins take the count

A MACHINE just perfected in the United States is likely to prove a great boon to banks and companies handling a lot of cash. It is an automatic machine that not only counts coins at the rate of 1000 a minute but wraps them up and then checks them!

Coins up to 25,000 of any one denomination are placed in a hopper, which is raised from floor level to the overhead counting device. Here the coins are automatically counted and released in whatever quantity is desired, wrapped in paper in the form of a roll.

This roll then passes through an electronic device that checks and audits the contents, without opening, and rejects any rolls that are short or defective. This rarely happens, for the counter is almost infallible.

JOURNEY BY JAM JAR

THIRTY Sunderland boys, members of a handicraft club, are trying to collect 60,000 jam jars by August to raise funds enabling them to see London's Festival of Britain celebrations. The boys hope to camp on the outskirts of London and travel in each day.

LONELY PELICAN

THE plight of the solitary pelican in St James's Park has inspired quite a correspondence in the newspapers recently. Formerly there were four pelicans; now the number has dwindled to one. To keep this lone specimen company a goose has been provided, though it is argued that a goose is no sort of mate for a pelican.

The practice of keeping birds in the royal parks goes back to the reign of Charles the Second. Birdcage Walk on the south side of St James's Park got its name from the aviaries beloved by Charles, and more than a century after his death the public accounts carried an item for "hemp-seed" for the royal birds.

All the king's birds were not fed on hemp-seed, however. As in Shakespeare's day, men enjoyed hunting with trained hawks, so Charles delighted to have trained cormorants catch fish for him in the Thames at Datchet, near Windsor. These birds were replaced each year, and official records show that the royal cormorant keeper went annually "into the north parts of England to take haggard [wild] cormorants for the King's disport in fishing."

It was easy to replace cormorants in those days, but pelicans—that is a bigger bill.

A blow against freedom

THE whole free world has been deeply shocked by the action of the Government of Argentina in taking over the famous independent newspaper of their country, *La Prensa* (The Press).

President Perón, of Argentina, who is the instigator of these actions, is a dictator of sorts, and the crime of *La Prensa* was that it gave its readers the facts, unvarnished by the kind of propaganda on which dictators flourish.

This newspaper has been in existence for 82 years, and has built up a reputation for honest reporting that is respected all over the world.

Last January the Argentine Government prevented the newspaper from appearing. At this there was a storm of protest from the democratic nations, on whose side Argentina claims to be. American newspapers offered the writers of *La Prensa* space in which to make their comments.

Now the oppressive Argentine Government have taken over *La Prensa*. Its fearless editor and chief owner, Dr Alberto Paz, protested to the Argentine Congress that the Government, in seizing his newspaper, had violated the Argentine Constitution, which forbids any laws restricting the freedom of the Press.

Editor Escapes

Dr Paz, fortunately, was able to escape across the border to friends and relatives in Uruguay.

Our own newspapers, together with those in many other countries, have declared that this is not something which is solely Argentina's business; it concerns the whole free world. Perón has not only violated the Constitution of his own country, he has violated the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, in which Article 20 lays down:

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

Argentina's challenge to this freedom is one that cannot be ignored by the democratic nations.

Relics of old railways

LONDON schoolboys will find much of interest in the free exhibition "Our Early Railways" given by Mr Frank T. Sabin, at Park House, Rutland Gate, Knightsbridge. It is open until the end of this month.

Enthusiasts will find among the many fine prints on show, interesting details of early systems of signalling. Then there are instructional railway games, quite in the modern manner, the players moving counters round the map of England with much educational geography imparted en route, though players were asked to "draw lots from a lady's reticule," predecessor to the modern handbag.

There are also jigsaws of railway scenes, and a map of early railways in England printed on a linen handkerchief—an oldtime version of the modern head-square.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

WELSH BOOK OF FAME

The Dictionary of Welsh National Biography will be published this year as part of the bi-centenary celebrations of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion, formed in London in 1751 for the furtherance of the arts among the Welsh people.

The organisers of the Lord Mayor of London's National Thanksgiving Fund announce that the subscribed sum of £772,000 makes possible its main object—the establishment of hostels in this country for overseas students.

Keith Farnworth, a 13-year-old Boy Scout, has been awarded the Scout Silver Cross for rescuing a boy of ten from the River Ribble at Preston.

Ennerdale Lake and the Anglers' Hotel on its western shore have been acquired by the Whitehaven Corporation for £11,000.

R-R-Rolls—R-R-Royce

Rolls-Royce aero engines are to be manufactured at a new factory at East Kilbride, Scotland, which will eventually provide work for between 4000 and 5000 people.



The Douglas Vespa, a "two-wheeled car," which is a replica of an Italian machine, is now being produced in Britain. It has a 125cc two-stroke engine, a speed of 45 m.p.h., and does 100 miles to the gallon.

A new flooring surface known as "Safety Walk" is claimed to eliminate the danger of slipping on a wet or greasy floor—conditions common in industries where oil and water processes are used.

Minted in AD 320, during the reign of Constantine the Great, a bronze Roman coin has been dug up at Grove Farm, Warham, Norfolk.

A survey is being made to ascertain whether there is a market for herrings in the larger islands of the West Indies. The fish would be specially cured to suit local conditions.

JEWELLERS' SCHOOL

A school for jewellers, the only one of its kind in the country, is being opened at Birmingham to revive interest in the goldsmith's art.

The Brabazon airliner will make its first flight abroad in June when it flies over Paris during the international air exhibition.

A doll with features which can be changed is now on sale in America. Crayons and illustrated instructions for drawing different facial expressions are supplied with each doll.

Colonel W. A. Payn has presented his collection of Palaeolithic birds and mammals—specimens native to Norway, Russia, and Siberia—to the Natural History Museum, South Kensington.

Speak-up!

A recording machine has been installed at Horwich (Bolton) Junior Technical School to help pupils to speak correctly and distinctly. The boys hear their voices played back, and ways of improving speech are noted.

The King and Queen of Denmark are to pay a State visit to England from May 8 to 11. They will stay at Buckingham Palace.

The 4th Malden, 4th Harrow, and 20th Fulham are the first three Air Scout Troops to be granted recognition by the Air Ministry under the scheme announced last September.

The Giant's Causeway Tramway, known to thousands of holidaymakers in Ulster, has been sold by auction for £11,600. It was the first hydro-electric tramway in the world, and has been in continuous service since 1883.

DOWN THE EXE

A rally of canoeists will this week-end attempt to negotiate the River Exe from Dulverton to Exeter. On this 30-mile stretch there are 14 weirs and a series of rapids.

Two pit ponies which remained trapped when seven miners were freed from Oliver's Drift mine, Birtley, Durham, were eventually rescued after being in the pit for 57 hours.

The millionth vehicle made by Vauxhall Motors was specially finished in cream enamel and is now touring the country.

The world of letters has suffered a loss by the death of Robert Calverley Trevelyan, the poet, scholar, and translator, at the age of 78. He was author of many works in the classical tradition, including verse plays based on Greek legend. He came of a notable family, his father Sir George Trevelyan, himself a scholar of repute, being a nephew of Lord Macaulay, and his younger brother, Dr G. M. Trevelyan, the distinguished historian.

He sailed the seas

Captain F. H. Fisher, who has just retired as assistant marine superintendent of Royal Mail Lines, is one of the few men still holding a square-rigged extra master's certificate. He served in the full-rigged ship *Leicester Castle*.

Cambridge, easy winners of this year's Varsity boat race, are now in America for a series of races against picked American crews. On Saturday, April 14, they meet Yale University on the River Thames at Connecticut and five days later they will row on the Charles River at Boston against Harvard, Boston University, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Twelve special stewards are to be appointed by the BOAC to look after the large number of animals carried on the York freighter service from Singapore to London.

CAMBRIDGE A CITY

The King, on the recommendation of the Home Secretary, has conferred on the borough of Cambridge the title and dignity of a city. The first charter was officially conferred on the borough by King John in 1201.



Art for the nurses

The nurses of Fountain Hospital, Tooting, London, have little time to visit art galleries, so reproductions of some of the world's famous pictures have been hired and will adorn the nurses' home, being changed every four months. Here we see some of the nurses deciding where to hang the pictures.

FREEZING THE ARCTIC

AIRFIELD construction engineers of the Royal Canadian Air Force have difficult problems to solve in the Arctic. Strangely enough, refrigeration plays a large part in their technique for building runways in the Far North.

Although this sounds rather like the Canadian equivalent of carrying coals to Newcastle, the refrigeration gear is, in fact, essential to beat perma-frost. This, as the name implies, is a ground condition which keeps it frozen a few feet below the surface all the year round.

In the process of excavating, this frozen layer of ground is exposed to the air and becomes mushy. If concrete is poured on it in this state the foundation is affected when the ground refreezes. To counteract this, RCAF engineers attach copper tubing to a refrigeration unit and place it at the base of the excavation. The copper keeps the ground frozen while the concrete is being laid and this results in a solid foundation.

MONKEY-TRICKS IN A PLANE

THERE were fine larks in a plane recently when 500 monkeys got loose in it on the way from Cairo to London. The plane was carrying a cargo of mixed animals, and the monkeys playfully opened the parakeets' cages and chased them out.

The parakeets did not want to play, and they pecked at the monkeys. Soon there was a glorious uproar of screeching and squawking while the pilot at his controls battled bravely on.

Mere spectators of the fun were some flying foxes who just went on sedately hanging upside down, while a couple of solemn storks only shifted from one leg to another as they watched the hullabaloo between the monkeys and the parakeets.

At Rome, experts helped to get the monkeys and parakeets back into their cages, and off the plane went again.

But some of the parakeets were still indignant at being "ragged" by the monkeys, and they tore their way out of their wickerwork cages. The crew of the plane shut the door on them and left them to their own devices until the freighter reached London.

SOLDIERS AT SEA

SOME 64 Guardsmen were recently taken on cruises round the Isle of Wight. This sounds like an early summer holiday for the troops, but the trips were made with the object of provoking sea-sickness. The pilots of fast patrol boats, 117 feet long, went out in rough seas, headed for the biggest waves, and generally contrived to make their craft heave and roll as much as possible.

The soldiers had volunteered to try out drugs for curing sea-sickness.

MORE THATCHERS

IN a recent report the Rural Industries Bureau state that there are 778 thatchers working whole or part time; in 1949 alone 107 young men entered the craft—many through a special training scheme of the bureau, which does excellent work in helping to preserve old rural crafts.

MEET THE CAHOW

NESTING-PLACES of the cahow, a rare ocean bird believed to have died out 300 years ago, have recently been found on some of the islets in the Bermudas, the group of islands in the Atlantic about mid-way between the West Indies and Nova Scotia.

The cahow, which is a native of the Bermudas, gets its name from the sound of its call. It is about the size of a pigeon, but with longer wings, and greyish brown on top with a white underbelly. The black beak is curved. It is thought that the bird remains out in the open ocean for the greater part of the year, returning to land for the 40-day hatching period.

When the first settlers landed with Sir George Somers in 1609 the birds were quite plentiful;

but later settlers, in need of food so reduced their numbers that by the early part of the 17th century they were thought to have become extinct.

In 1906, however, a cahow was caught alive, and when it died it was preserved as a type specimen in the American Museum of Natural History. Then, early this year a curator from the museum visited the Bermudas and found nesting-places of the cahow in rocky crevices on three of the uninhabited islands. (There are in all some 360 isles and islets, but only 20 are inhabited.)

The curator was able to capture several birds, and these were photographed and released after identity rings had been attached to their legs.

WORMS WANTED

TWO duck-billed platypuses which arrived unexpectedly at Perth, Western Australia, having been flown from Melbourne, spent the first night in a hurriedly-prepared room in a private house. Water, grass, and earth were put in the room to make them feel at home, but in the morning zoo officials found them hiding behind the brick-work of an old chimney.

At the National Park, which is to be their new home, these shy creatures again went into hiding and refused food that was offered them. Now the State Gardens Board is advertising for worms with which to feed Mr and Mrs Platypus until they can forage for themselves. But worms are scarce in Western Australia.

PARSON'S PROGRESS

MANY of the students who are training to be clergymen at a college at Lichfield, Staffordshire, will not go straight into the Church.

They have volunteered to work for six months in shops, factories, or mines before they are ordained, so that they can gain experience of the lives of other folk.

During the time they are working the future clergymen will keep their real profession a secret from their workmates.

FESTIVAL STAMPS TO AID BLIND

THE Greater London Fund for the Blind has issued 100,000 sets of decorative stamps illustrating features of the Festival of Britain. Views on the stamps, which are issued in five colours and cost threepence each, include the Royal Festival Hall, Dome of Discovery, Flying Saucer, Skylon, Shot Tower, and Emmett's locomotive *Nellie*.

HAPPY OVERSIGHT

A NUMBER of British children will receive a free holiday in Switzerland because Mr Walter Bernay, a Zurich editor, reproduced a painting by Mr Churchill and underpaid for it.

Some 200,000 copies of the New Year edition of Mr Bernay's periodical were distributed with a reproduction of a Christmas card featuring Mr Churchill's painting of "Winter in Chartwell" but he overlooked reproduction rights.

Instead of sending £100 which was due, Mr Bernay wrote: "We will pay £200 if Mr Churchill will use the money to send delicate British children to Switzerland for a holiday which their parents could not afford."

Mr Churchill, of course, readily agreed to this proposal.

KINDNESS TO THE CROCODILE

SOLOMON ISLANDERS have a rooted objection to killing crocodiles. They maintain that if one is killed, all the others in the area will take their revenge.

So says Professor Charles Marshall, who holds the Chair of Geology at the University of Sydney, and has recently been in the Solomon Islands to open up a geological survey.

If you cannot get away from a Solomon Islands crocodile in time, says Professor Marshall (with tongue in cheek), then you must do the right thing by the tribe, and get eaten.

FOR THE ASHES

AUSTRALIA has a brand-new casket for the mythical "ashes" which she has successfully retained. Presented to Lindsay Hassett by Freddy Brown, the England captain, before he left for New Zealand, it was the gift of Mr S. P. Foander, sports editor of the *Ceylon Observer*.

Mr Foander, who has attended 50 Test matches, brought the casket with him from Ceylon. It is of polished coconut wood supported on three elephants carved in ebony, and inside are the ashes of a cricket stump used in the 1936 Test series.

MODEL LANDLORD

EVERY Friday Mr David Henry Lewis collected the rents of nine houses he owned in Smyrna Terrace, Swansea. Often the tenants would press him to sell them their houses, but he always smilingly refused.

Now they have learned that in his will Mr Lewis has left all the houses to their tenants.

AUCHTERARDER THE ROYAL

THE Convention of the Royal Burghs in Scotland are to re-instate the Perthshire town of Auchterarder on their roll of members. Auchterarder was a royal burgh as long ago as 1290, and was represented in the Scottish Parliament. At the Union of Parliaments in 1707, however, the town was so poor that its people could not raise funds to send a member to Westminster, and the royal status was thus lost.

MAPS IN THE BELFRY

SEVERAL maps and charts, published in 1793 by George Vancouver, have been found in the tower of St Margaret's Church, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

George Vancouver, who explored the north-west coast of America and gave his name to the great Canadian seaport, was a native of King's Lynn.

WILD BELL-RINGER

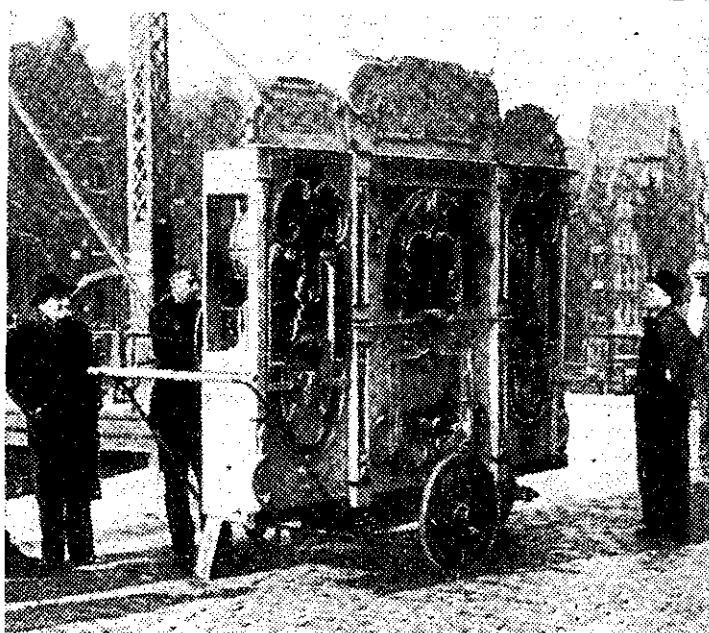
IN a sleepy Bavarian village, not long ago, the people were alarmed in the middle of the night to hear the church bell ringing wildly. Thinking some catastrophe had occurred, they rushed out in assorted garments and flocked to the church.

The village bell-ringer was pulling for all he was worth.

"What's happened?" they asked anxiously.

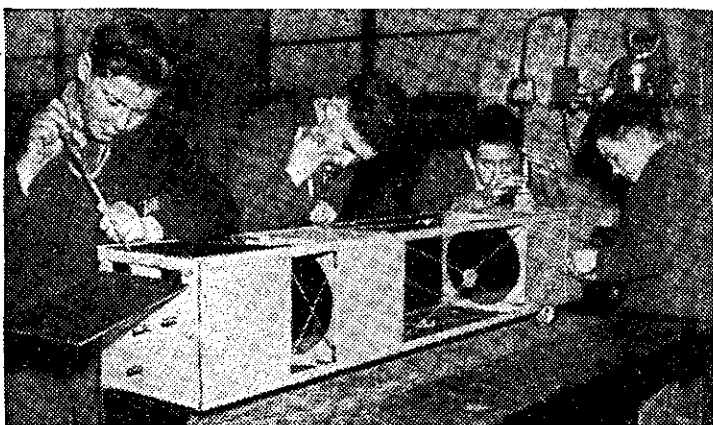
"Nothing," he replied. "That's the trouble. I'm tired of continually asking for a rise in my wages and not getting it, so I thought of doing this as a protest."

He got his rise.



Music for Surinam

Although barrel-organs are very popular in Holland, in the Dutch colony of Surinam, South America, they are virtually unknown. This barrel-organ is being shipped to the colony from Amsterdam.



Schoolboy astronomers

Boys of Wargrave Piggott School, Berkshire, are building an astronomical telescope. It is an eight-inch Newtonian reflector with a magnification of 300.

Radio-telescopes detect unseen stars

By the C N Astronomer

THE development of radio-telescopes suggests that astronomers may soon be able to "see the invisible" and plot the positions of mysterious heavenly bodies that cannot be seen even with the most powerful optical telescopes.

These new receivers have detected the existence of radio waves bearing electro-magnetic energy which may have originated not only in the Milky Way, of which our Sun is a member, but also in universes remote from our own.

This energy has long been known to travel from the Sun. During the electro-magnetic storms which usually accompany the solar cyclones known as sun-spots, the stream of corpuscles then ejected materially affects conditions on Earth, particularly the compass and radio reception.

It was eventually discovered by means of a great paraboloid reflector used by the Bell Telephone Laboratories (which may be regarded as the first radio-telescope) that much electro-magnetic radiation and what we know as radio-waves came from the Milky Way—and therefore from suns between 20,000 and 70,000 light-years distant. Such radio must also have taken all that length of time getting here.

Radio from Milky Way

Research by Grote Reber, a leading expert in the U.S.A., who used a shorter wave-length of 1.87 metres, revealed the fact that a maximum of radio came from that region of our Universe, or the Milky Way, which had previously been regarded as its centre and the hub round which this vast Galaxy of suns and worlds revolved.

This region is represented by the constellation of Sagittarius and averages 30,000 light-years' distance. Thus the radio revelation confirmed what had previously been conjectured.

Recent research work in England by the investigators Hey, Parsons, and Phillips, with a wave-length of 4.7 metres, confirmed further evidence that several dense and outlying regions and clouds of Milky Way suns produced streams of radio emission apparently in proportion to their density and nearness to us.

In addition, singular and unexplained effects noted by these investigators suggest that much depends upon the wave-length used.

Thus the growing evidence increases the mystery of this vast and apparently universal

radio energy that fills space. Already, among other wonders, upwards of a hundred radio-stars have been detected. Thus the problem of the dark stars in space may be nearer solution. So far the only evidence for their existence has been the gravitational pull they appear to exert upon other bodies.

To further this new science of radio-astronomy—a kind of celestial radar—a great radio-telescope has been erected to the design of Dr J. A. Clegg. It consists of a number of wire reflectors fixed round a central tower 126 feet high so as to produce a paraboloidal reflecting instrument 218 feet in diameter.

Beyond our Universe

Believed to be the most powerful radio-telescope in existence, it has already received radio emissions on a wave-length of 1.89 metres from far beyond our own Universe. They were found to come from a region about ten times farther than any part of our Galaxy and from another Galaxy almost as large, known to astronomers as M31.

This is the famous Andromeda Nebula, as it was once known. It is visible to the naked eye, its position and how to find it being described in the C N for January 6 last.

The photograph reproduced below reveals the shape given to it by its luminous suns, but the radio waves are being emitted by the dark stars in that Galaxy.

G. F. M.



The Andromeda Galaxy

Youth in the Festival

"Young people should be seen and not heard," was a favourite saying of our ancestors, and we cannot imagine that boys and girls had much to do in the Great Exhibition of 1851. But in this Festival year young Britons will be both seen and heard.

For on May 3 they will be holding camp-fire songs all over the country, and the biggest one, perhaps, will be on a bombed site behind St Paul's Cathedral, in the heart of London.

Here the faces of a thousand or more young people will glow in the light of a huge bonfire as they sing a song specially written for this great occasion. They will represent all London youth organisations, and their Festival Song and others will be broadcast.

Throughout Britain boys and girls have been getting ready for the Festival.

Supper by auction

Girls' Clubs in Perthshire and Kinross have a novel idea; they are to hold auctions of American box suppers. This is a popular way of raising money for charitable purposes in the United States. Each girl will concoct the best supper she can and put it in a box. The boxes are then sold by auction without the buyers seeing what is in them.

The Welsh League of Youth is to hold its own Eisteddfod at Fishguard, while Sea Cadets at Swansea will enact the landing of the Vikings, and others at Porthcawl are to improve the pier there.

Girl Guides in Ulster are to hold window-box competitions, and everywhere young people will be helping to tidy and brighten up their towns and villages.

Scouts, Guides, and others have planned special international camps to welcome young people from all over the world, and Scouts are to establish a demonstration bivouac camp on the South Bank of the Thames in London.

These are just a few examples of what young people are doing to make this a memorable year in Britain's story.

FELINE FILM STAR

WHEN a cat was required to play a leading part in the Paramount film *Rhubarb*, which is now being made at Hollywood, over 500 cats were "interviewed."

A puss was wanted to play the part of a bad-tempered, overweight, scar-faced alley-cat named Rhubarb, to whom, in the film story, an eccentric millionaire has left 30 million dollars and a baseball team.

Finally selected for the part was a Californian cat named Orangey. This feline heavyweight fighter, homeless and ill, wandered into the garden of Mrs Agnes Murray of Sherman Oaks over two years ago. Mrs Murray fed it and nursed it back to health, and Orangey thereupon adopted the family and refused to leave.

However, its affections are limited to the Murrys, and it snarls and spits at the approach of anyone else—proving itself useful as a "watchcat."

Orangey weighs 18 pounds, and needs little provocation to emit unwelcome noises. He should play the part of Rhubarb excellently.

CENSUS DAY

NEXT Sunday is Census Day. On April 8 millions of people in these islands will fill in forms, called schedules, giving certain facts about themselves, their families, and other members of their households. For a great number of people this responsible duty will be a completely new one, for owing to the war the 1941 Census was not taken, and 20 years have passed since the last count of the British people. This Census is certainly overdue.

The purpose of the Census is not merely to discover the exact population of our country, and whether it is increasing or decreasing. Other information is sought as well, such as the kind of houses in which people live, and the conveniences therein... such as kitchen sink, cooking stove, and fixed bath. As exact a statement as possible is also required of the occupation of every person over 15 and where he or she works.

This time there are some new questions due to the more complex and more highly organised conditions of social life today, with greater public needs and responsibility. These questions concern marriages and children and will be very useful for estimating future populations and their needs in education and housing.

One of the questions about young people is whether they are in full time, or part time, attendance at an educational establishment.

50,000 enumerators

The important task of distributing and collecting the census schedules is in the hands of the district registrars of births and deaths. Each district has been subdivided into sections, and enumerators have been appointed to take charge of each section. About 50,000 enumerators will be doing this work.

An enumerator has distributed the schedule to every household in his section, and duly explained the schedule, helping in every possible way. It will be the duty of the head of the household to

write down the particulars of every person under his roof at midnight on Sunday April 8.

On the following day the enumerator will collect all the schedules. He will examine each one to ensure that it has been properly filled in, and if it has not, he must help to do so.

There are some who wonder whether the information given on the schedule will be treated as strictly confidential. Therefore, it must be emphasised that the householder, the enumerator, and indeed, everyone whose duty it is to deal with the schedules, is legally bound to the strictest secrecy.

The first count

As soon as possible after the Census each Registrar sends to the Census Office in London the number of members of each sex counted in each area in his district. These are printed in Preliminary Reports, which also show the area of each district and the increase or decrease in its population since the Census of 1931.

These tables will be published some two months hence, but the tabulation of the other information takes far longer, though elaborate counting and sorting machines are used. Each item of information relating to each one of us is represented by a hole punched in an anonymous card and the machines sort and count out the cards according to the facts required for publication in the General Report—an up-to-date Domesday Book, giving an invaluable over-all picture of the nation.

Hudson Bay history

THE archives of the Hudson's Bay Company, in which are reports, company minutes, and ships' logs going back for more than 280 years, are now being completely microfilmed.

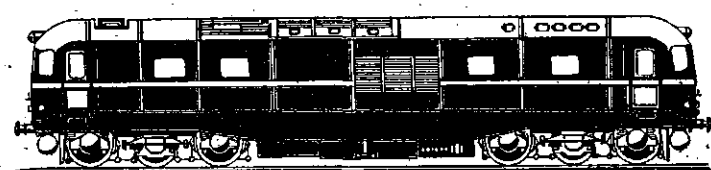
These documents are of absorbing interest, and many scholars and others come to London to study the originals stored in the basement of Hudson Bay House, in Bishopsgate. The film copies will enable Canadians to study the records in Ottawa.

The minute books go back in

an almost unbroken series to 1671, the year after Charles the Second gave the charter to his cousin and 17 associates, granting them sole trading rights in "the area watered by rivers flowing into Hudson Bay."

There are fascinating accounts of the expeditions which preceded the granting of the charter. One of the items records that the sum of £5 was paid to Isaac Marychurch for piloting *Eaglet* and *Nonsuch* out of the Thames in June 1668.

BRITISH RAILWAY ENGINES 6. Gas turbine



THE gas turbine locomotive is likely to enter into fierce competition with other types; but at present there is only one on the whole of British Railways, though a second will go into service soon.

Like the Diesel-electric, the gas turbine uses oil as fuel, but it is a cruder and cheaper oil.

First, ordinary air is compressed to about 36 pounds per square inch, and this then passes to a combustion chamber into which vaporised fuel is injected

and exploded by an electric spark. Now, any sort of explosion is accompanied by a rapid expansion of the gases concerned, and in this case they are harnessed and made to drive a turbine engine, which in turn drives an electric generator.

The generator makes a supply of electricity; the electricity drives a series of electric motors; and the motors drive the wheels of the locomotive which can with ease haul passenger trains at speeds of 90 miles an hour.

The Children's Newspaper, April 7, 1951

5

Biggest aquarium in the world



One of the porpoises at Marineland leaps out of the water to take a fish from the keeper

At Marineland, on a beach 18 miles south of St Augustine, in Florida, the world's two largest aquariums have been erected.

The two huge tanks which form the heart of this unique place are oceans in miniature, peopled with the strange, fierce, beautiful creatures of the sea, just as they are found in their natural surroundings.

One of the tanks is rectangular in shape, while the other is circular. The two are connected with a flume, or channel.

The rectangular tank is 100 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 18 feet deep at the deepest part. The circular tank is 75 feet in diameter, and has a depth of 11 feet.

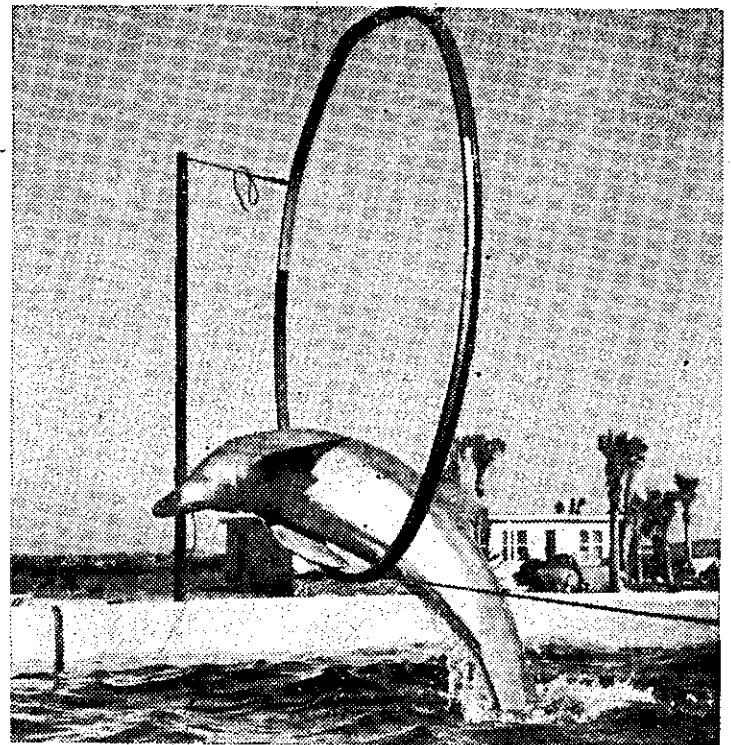
Both tanks and the connecting flume are made of steel, electrically welded and surfaced on the interior with concrete.

Enclosed galleries run at different levels around both tanks. Each of the galleries faces inward upon a row of portholes in the sides of the inner tanks in which the marine life is displayed.

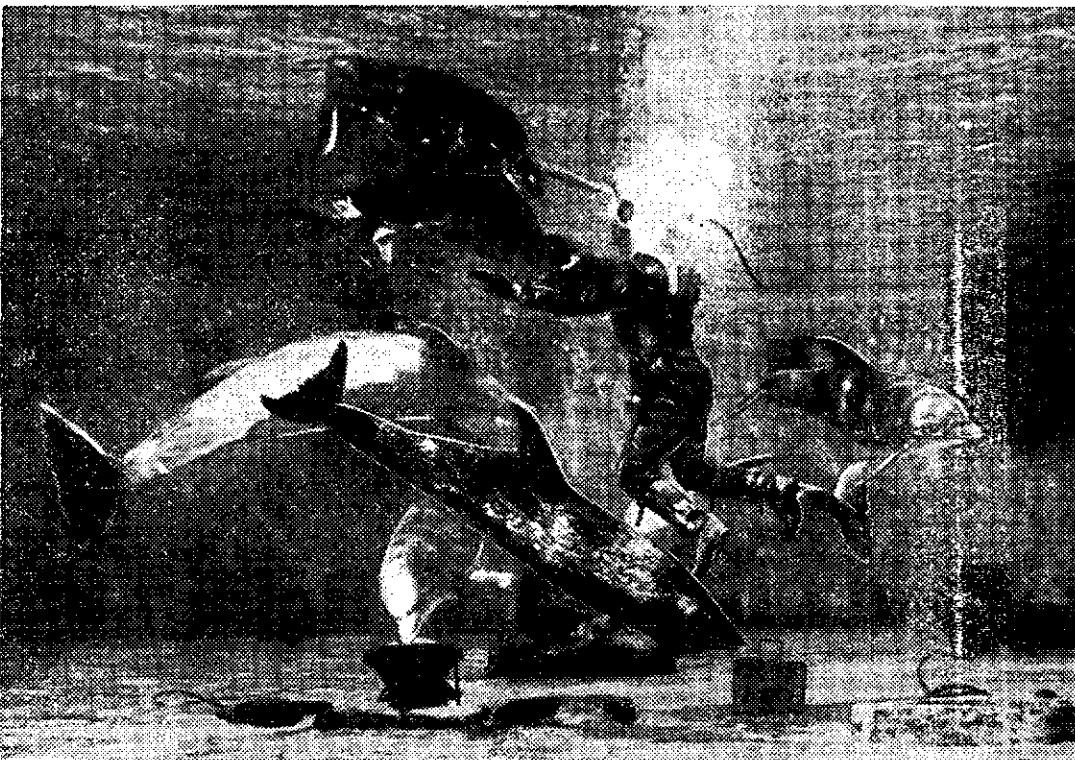
Each visitor can sit comfortably in a chair and look into the lighted tank through his individual porthole in much the same manner that he would look at a television screen.

Thus the observer can study the exhibits without the usual distractions present in the ordinary aquarium, where the number of lighted cases or objects on display and the moving crowds tend to prevent concentration.

These portholes are placed in such a way as to make it possible for the visitor to look into the tanks from different levels—just above the bottom, just



This six-foot porpoise has been taught to leap through a hoop. It can also retrieve a stick and catch a rubber ball



A diver goes down with some food and is quickly surrounded by inquisitive creatures. Porpoises, turtles, and a sting-ray can be seen swimming round the intruder

below the surface, and from the bottom of the tank looking upwards. There is also an open gallery around the top.

Every effort has been made to duplicate conditions in the ocean. For example, a coral garden has been built in the tanks, and highly-coloured reef fishes there seek safety from their natural enemies, just as they do in the open sea.

Various sea-grasses and seaweeds grow from the bottom of the tanks, thereby increasing the beauty of the scene and affording protection for such small forms as the pipe fish.

Jelly-fish float near the surface accompanied by their camp followers, the tiny fish that derive safety from their stinging tentacles. Lobsters, an octopus, an eleven-foot spider crab, and other ocean-bed-feeders can be seen from the lowest portholes.

Altogether, there are some 85,000 species of aquatic animals.

The design of the tanks was recommended by technical cinema experts, who with the greatest care worked out in advance the various camera angles necessary to afford producers the

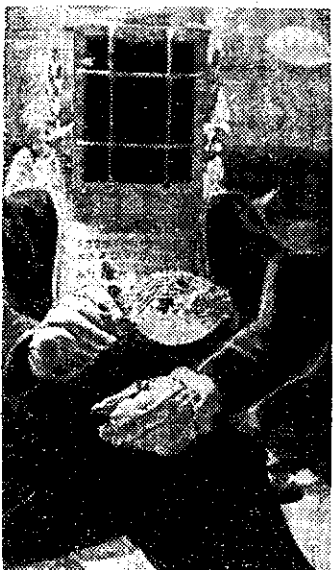
greatest latitude in the filming of underwater scenes. These angles were the factors that actually determined the shape and dimensions of the tanks and the positions of the glass portholes.

Capturing alive and transporting the larger species of sea creatures which are placed in these tanks presented certain problems which had to be solved before the project was feasible. Extensive research has developed a method of injecting a drug through a hypodermic needle into the largest sharks, porpoises, giant rays, and so on, which puts them to sleep almost instantaneously.

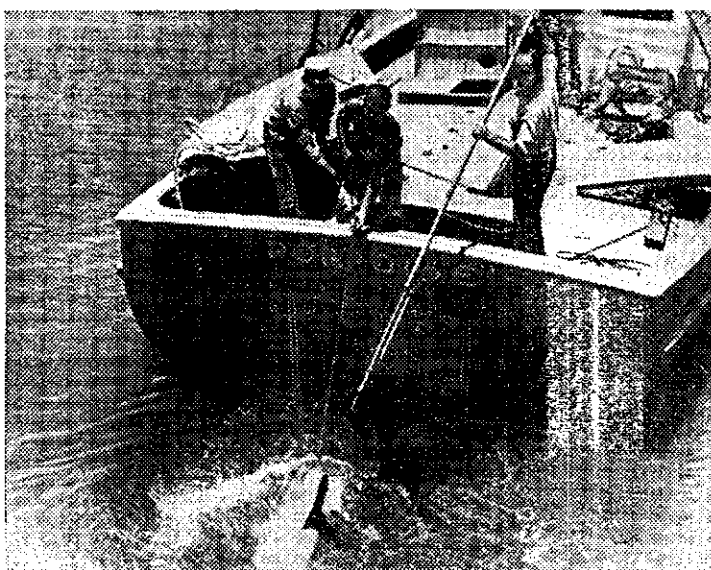
To handle and transport these fish and aquatic mammals a special boat was designed and built in St Augustine. Its distinguishing feature is a special tank in the hull.

The fish, under the temporary influence of the anaesthetic, is manoeuvred into the tank and pulled into the boat, entirely without injury.

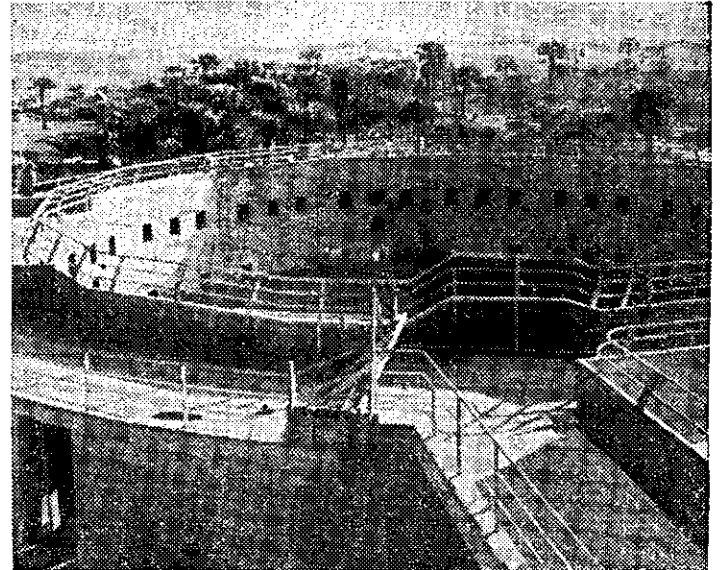
There is also a laboratory at Marineland in which scientists have the opportunity of conducting valuable research work.



A blowfish puffs up when a diver squeezes its tail



The shark is about to receive an injection which puts it to sleep long enough to enable it to be taken to the aquarium



This view shows the circular tank at Marineland before it was filled with seawater

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars · London · EC 4

APRIL 7 1951

LEADERSHIP

FIELD-MARSHAL SIR WILLIAM SLIM has been stressing the fact that Britain's leadership in world affairs is still important; that in tight corners other people turn to the British for advice.

In Korea for instance our small force, so American officers report, has been unsurpassed in dependability, and high quality. The self-reliance, coolness, and courage of the average Briton come to the fore in time of peril.

We may lack the resources of some other nations; our Navy may be much smaller now than the American navy; our Army is tiny compared with that of Russia. But in terms of leadership Britain is powerful still; and this capacity to lead will continue to keep this nation in the forefront of world affairs.

APRIL'S HERE

WINTER is over; the splendid pageant of an English spring is once more in progress.

April spells England at its best. It is the month of Shakespeare and St George, and it is the month of primroses and daffodils as well. The very name of the month has a welcome lilt to it.

Whatever burdens this nation has to carry, they will seem lighter in the longer, sweeter days of spring. As Whittier sang *Close to my heart I fold each lovely thing*
The sweet day yields; and, not disconsolate,
With the calm patience of the woods I wait
For leaf and blossom when God gives us Spring!



Under the Editor's Table

PETER PUCK WANTS TO KNOW

If tall people live long

WE must get to grips with the problem of food. But do not want to live from hand to mouth.

YOU have nothing to fear from sharks provided you swim straight towards them, somebody says. But we haven't all got funny faces.

BILLY BEETLE



CHILDREN should not be always hearing the word "Don't." Most of them don't listen to it anyway.

THE world's troubles, says a vegetarian, are mainly due to men eating meat. So now they should be practically over.

THE English language is not easily picked up. Yet people often drop h's.

MOTORISTS should not pass a stationary tram on the outside. How do they get through it?

The Editor's Table

Road accidents are a disgrace

"THE record of accidents on the roads is rapidly becoming a disgrace to the community," said Mr Justice Pritchard not long ago; but there is no doubt that our accident record has already become something to make us hang our heads in shame.

Writing to *The Times* recently, the President of the Pedestrians' Association stressed the tragedy of children who have to go through life maimed.

"However efficient our surgeons," he wrote, "your readers will share the feelings of a little girl who, on being told she would have to have an artificial limb, replied: 'I want a leg like God makes.' The accent must be on prevention, and I would like to support Lord Llewellyn's appeal to parents and drivers to accept fuller responsibility for the safety of children."

It is an appeal to the conscience of every road-user.

SAYING IT WITH SUNDIALS

It was a happy thought of the Welcome Society of Pennsylvania to ask friends in Britain for a sundial to place in the garden of Pennsbury, William Penn's home near Philadelphia.

The sundial is the loveliest recorder of time, and it is good to know that already many offers of sundials have been made. We can pay tribute to friends in many ways—through books, flowers, and letters—but to say it with sundials is a new idea.

Look after today

TODAY is ours; what do you fear?

Today is ours; we have it here, Let's treat it kindly, that it may Wish, at least, with us to stay.

Abraham Cowley

FRIENDS IN BLUE

THE leader of a Siamese police commission that visited Britain recently was impressed by our good will toward policemen. He told one of our Bobbies: "We have been surprised at the friendliness people show you."

It may be that in Siam the policeman's lot is not a happy one, but in this country there is no need for a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Coppers. Nicknames we may give them, but it's all in fun, and in fun those patient, kindly, and inflexible men take it.

We all know that the policeman is the public's friend.

WINDMILL HOME



In the Sussex village of Washington is this 124-year-old windmill which has been converted into a house.

Prize for being last

A PRIZE for being bottom of the class sounds like the idler's dream-school. Yet such a special prize was won recently by Kenneth Rowe, aged ten, of East Wickham Primary School, Welling, Kent.

Last year Kenneth lost a leg in a road accident, and was away from school for a long time. But when he returned he worked so hard that he was soon promoted from a C class to a B, and then to an A class. If he had stayed in B he would have won first prize there, but his efforts put him at the bottom of A.

Some people think it is better to be a big frog among the little frogs than a little frog among the big ones; but not Kenneth. He has well deserved his prize and the cheers of his schoolmates when he received it.

SOWING THE SEED

THE Women's Institutes of Warwickshire have a bright idea for the Festival of Britain: their 10,000 members have been told that they are expected to carry a pocketful of seeds wherever they go and to scatter them on every bare patch they find.

More flowers in the countryside is their motto; instead of scattering paper scatter seeds, like the wind and the birds. It is an idea that should be borrowed; everyone would benefit.

Choice of subject is most revealing

WE ought not to be surprised, perhaps—even if disappointed—that Secondary School pupils in Western Australia seem to have more interest in cricket than in public libraries; nor that they know more about Bing Crosby than Bertrand Russell.

Reporting on last year's School Leaving Certificate, the examiners state that only one candidate elected to write an essay on "How to improve the public libraries," but that many wrote on the claims of Western Australia to be included in the Sheffield Shield Cricket Competition.

Of 29 candidates who chose to write a speech of welcome to a distinguished visitor, 15 addressed Bing Crosby, 5 "Gussie" Moran, 5 Sir Laurence Olivier, 2 General MacArthur, and one each Trygve Lie and Bertrand Russell.

MASTERPIECE

THE human face is the masterpiece of God. The eyes reveal the soul, the mouth the flesh. The chin stands for purpose, the nose means will: but over and beyond all is that fleeting something we call "expression." *Elbert Hubbard*

SHAW'S CORNER

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW bequeathed his house at Ayot St Lawrence, Hertfordshire, to the National Trust, and visitors will see it exactly as he left it—his hats hanging in the hall, his typewriter and pens on his study table.

Recently the house and grounds were declared open to the public by Dame Edith Evans, who paid tribute to the genius, warm-heartedness, and courtesy of G.B.S.

Shaw's Corner at Ayot St Lawrence will be preserved as an intimate memorial of a very great man, and down the years it will continue to attract literary pilgrims from all parts of the world.

THINGS SAID

WE know that the greatest part of the road leading to a federation of Europe has still to be covered. Our worst antagonist is national egoism, which still has partisans in each country.

Professor Hallstein, of the German Foreign Office

THE nicest men are sailors and the nicest girls are sailors' wives.

Admiral Sir Wilfred Patterson

THE "Common Man" can get on very well in nice and comfortable times, but in the times ahead of us we shall need the "Uncommon Man" and the "Uncommon Woman."

Dr Gilbert Murray, to schoolboys

SINGING is one of the best things to do at the moment. It costs nothing. It is not rationed. . . . You become twice the man or woman you were if you learn to breathe deeply and properly.

Dr Chalmers Burns

Fat Boy wanted

THE organisers of the Rochester Dickens pageant, which is to be held in June, have been finding it difficult to obtain a suitable young man to play the part of the Fat Boy who rolls placidly through the pages of Pickwick Papers.

Are there any boys of Billy Bunter proportions in these days? And if not, is the meagre meat to be blamed—or praised? We do not know. But whoever eventually plays the part of this famous Fat Boy should find it an easy one; all he has to do is to look interested at the mention or sight of food, and to sleep on every possible occasion.

WHEN THE CALL COMES

IN life's small things be resolute and great

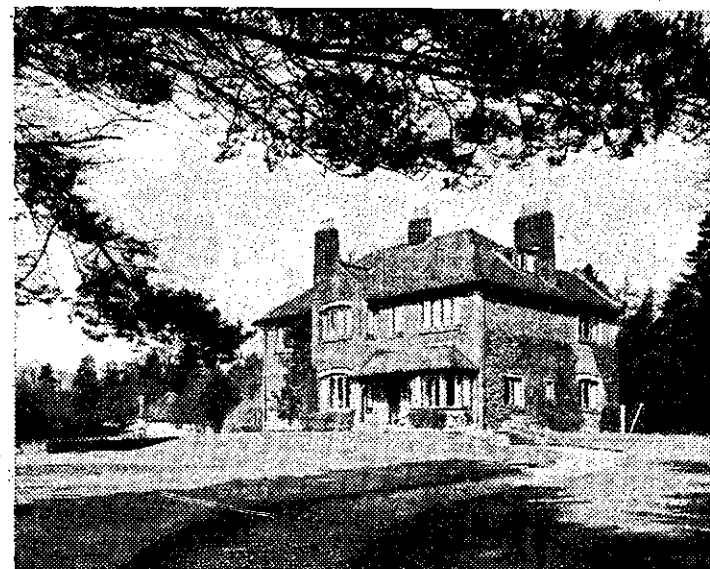
To keep thy muscle trained: knowest thou when Fate

Thy measure takes, or when she'll say to thee,

"I find thee worthy; do this deed for me." *J. R. Lowell*

JUST AN IDEA

As Benjamin Jowett wrote: *We see farthest into the future when we most carefully consider the facts of the present.*



OUR HOMELAND

Shaw's Corner at Ayot St Lawrence, Hertfordshire

The Children's Newspaper, April 7, 1951
THE HUT MAN WRITES OF

FIELD FOLK OF APRIL

IN April the woods become filled with venturesome young rabbits. Small white tails bob in and out of the shadows, there is a continual rustling of pine-needles and a mysterious swaying of fern fronds. It is a time of gay exploration for youngsters who have known only an underground life, first blind and hairless in a fur-lined nursery, then with wide open eyes and furry coats making short journeys here and there through the dark winding corridors of a burrow home.

Now in the sunshine they scamper and frolic and sample tender green growths, never thinking of the danger which may lurk behind each tree—a hunting stoat or weasel or fox, or a hungry farm cat. Young rabbits at this stage have little knowledge of fear.

Let us sit quietly alongside some burrow mouth, and the inmates who raced for shelter at our approach will quickly appear again, first one and then another till we are surrounded by six to a dozen playful little ones. We do not require imagination to name the games they play; there is no mistaking even rabbit versions of tig and follow-my-leader, blind-man's buff, and hide-and-seek.

Before the month is out these little ones will have learned caution and all the crafts of the hunted. When danger threatens we shall then hear the spotter thumping the ground with small but energetic hind-legs, a warning that sends every rabbit within hearing helter-skelter for the safety of the burrow. During this short race for home the rabbit can travel even more swiftly than its larger cousin the hare, but the distance covered is seldom more than a hundred yards.

Rabbits like to find their food where one wild scamper will take



Young rabbits at play

them home; but the wandering hare lives entirely above-ground and for safety must rely on its legs alone, running till it has tired out its pursuer or thrown him off the scent. We might call the hare the cross-country athlete—the five-miler—but the rabbit is the sprinter whose favourite race is the hundred-yards.

THE return of April brings back to our shores that delightful group of little birds, the warblers. Small, quietly coloured, and retiring in habits, they are often overlooked by the casual rambler, but their sweet voices form a subdued background of sound to the louder soles of blackbird, song-thrush, and skylark.

Commonest perhaps of all its

clan is the willow-warbler, a delicate little bird with brownish-green back and pale grey breast. It loves to inhabit open woodlands where there are tussocky grasses and bushes between the trees. Here the female builds her nest on the ground; a neat nest with a domed roof, formed of moss and grasses, where six or seven speckled eggs will soon be laid on the softest of feather linings.

But it is the song of the willow-warbler that is its chief charm. It is a song we should listen for



Delicate willow-warbler

as often as possible, before the bird falls silent in the hot days following midsummer. The lovely music of this little bird has been described as a "tender, delicious warble with a dying fall. It mounts up round and full, then runs down the scale, and expires upon the air in a gentle murmur."

UNDER stones or fallen branches, where grass is short and the turf dry, the earwig mother has prepared a nursery for her family. Perhaps she has selected a tiny natural hollow under her shelter, perhaps she has dug a special burrow, and towards the end of the month her cluster of eggs will be laid in this secluded nursery.

Earwig eggs are minute but lovely things with the pale lustre of seed pearls, and the mother guards them with jealous care, driving off intruders who find their way to her nest. We shall always find her fussing around her treasure, re-arranging the eggs every now and then, carefully collecting them should they become scattered.

Unlike almost all other solitary insects the mother earwig does not desert either her eggs or young ones. Surrounded by pale sons and daughters, she feeds and protects them until they are almost as big as herself and able to look after themselves. There are many people who say they dislike earwigs, but such people must know very little about them.

They cannot know the loving care with which the mother earwig tends her family, or the valuable work done by earwigs in ridding gardens and countryside of many small pests, among them the harmful green-flies or aphides.

When we do become acquainted with the ways of this little amber-coloured creature, and many other interesting insects, foolish dislikes will disappear. Let us remember that Aristotle, the great philosopher of Greece, said, "We ought not childishly to neglect the study even of the most despised animals, for in all natural objects there lies something marvellous."

Many kinds of money

AN extra 1d an hour scrubbing money is now being paid at various hospitals to persuade habit-bound charwomen to use electric scrubbing machines so that the work can be done from an upright position instead of on hands and knees.

Bonuses of a similar kind are found in many other occupations. Height money has long been paid to pylon workers, steeplejacks, and scaffolders, and 3d an hour extra is paid by Heston and Isleworth Council for work higher than twenty rungs of a ladder.

Dirty money is an incentive to get dirty but necessary work done for the community. But it does not always turn out as one might expect. Dustmen of Gillingham, Kent, protested some time ago that they had lost their 9d a day dirty money since they had been reclassified as cleansing officers with an all-in rate of pay.

Dockers also receive dirty money for handling carbon black, and danger money for dealing with cargoes of a dangerous nature. Closely related to this is sting money which is paid at the rate of 5s a time to some public health workers for destroying wasps' nests.

Muscle money

Boot money of 1d an hour is earned by certain council foremen and gangers to offset undue wear and tear of footgear in some occupations. Others receive Muscle money when engaged in heavy manual work such as road mending.

Blood money is not paid in Britain because donors give their services free. But in some countries blood banks are kept going by paid contributions.

In this connection an amusing story is told of the days before the present voluntary scheme was introduced in Britain. A young woman who needed three transfusions bought the blood from a Scotsman. She gave £10 for the first pint and £5 for the second. But when the time came for the third pint she had so much Scottish blood in her veins she only gave her thanks!

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CYCLE SERVICE

1. Choosing your machine

WHEN choosing your first bicycle do not pick one with a large frame size because it looks grown-up. You must be in a riding position which gives you complete and comfortable control over your machine.

Sit in the saddle. With the heel of your shoe resting on the pedal at its lowest point your knee should still be slightly flexed.

To calculate your correct frame-size (length of seat-tube) deduct nine inches from your inside leg measurement.

If you have little choice in the matter, take a smaller frame than your correct size and raise your saddle, but never take a frame size too big.

The type of bicycle? Avoid a heavy old-fashioned one. A light sports model will serve admirably as an all-purpose mount to take you to school, for a day out, or on a tour this summer.

V. S.

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Local Government explained

There are two kinds of government in this country. First of all there is the Central Government which works through Parliament and is concerned with such matters as national defence, relations with foreign countries, and many social services—old-age pensions, national insurance, and so on.

Secondly there is Local Government which works through locally-elected councils and is concerned with near-at-home affairs—street lighting, the emptying of dustbins, the provision and upkeep of parks and recreation grounds, and numerous other things.

In a short series of articles the C N will describe our various forms of local government and the services each renders to the community. The first article defines the areas of Local Government.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

SURPRISINGLY few people—even grown-up people who pay money in the form of "rates" to help maintain local services—really know much about Local Government.

This is a pity for a number of reasons, not least of which is that Local Government is immensely interesting and, because it concerns the running of our own towns, can help us all to understand at first hand just how democratic government really works in practice. We can, for instance, quite easily see Local Government in action by going along to our local town hall or council offices when the council is meeting, to watch from the public gallery just how the proceedings are conducted.

But if we are to understand properly how Local Government works it is necessary first of all to see how the country as a whole is divided up for that purpose. So as not to complicate the description we shall deal only with England and Wales—slightly different arrangements exist in Scotland.

Administrative counties

The whole of England and Wales is divided in the first place into what are called administrative counties. These are not always the same as the geographical counties which are shown in different colours in school atlases. Sussex, for instance, is divided for Local Government purposes into two parts: East Sussex and West Sussex, each of which is an administrative county.

Now the administrative county

of East Sussex does not include Brighton, Eastbourne, or Hastings, all of which are outside the administrative county for Local Government purposes and are called county boroughs.

So far, then, we have seen that the country is divided mainly into administrative counties and county boroughs. Now comes a slight complication.

The administrative counties are sub-divided into what are generally called county districts, and these county districts are given the names of boroughs, urban districts, and rural districts. As you will have noticed, the word borough has been used twice but in a different sense.

Types of boroughs

There are boroughs which are county boroughs—that is to say, the biggest and most important of our towns and cities, such as Birmingham and Bristol; and there are ordinary boroughs—non-county boroughs, or municipal boroughs as they are sometimes called—which are the middle-size towns, many having existed since very early times.

One further complication now arises. The rural districts are also sub-divided into parishes.

If you have understood this brief description of the kind of patch-work quilt of local government areas which covers this country, you will have gone a long way toward understanding what is called the structure of Local Government. Each of these areas, as we shall explain next week, has its own local authority.



Safety-first in America

This school bus in Chicago has traffic lights attached to it to indicate when its passengers are about to cross the road.

HOW THICK IS PAINT?

AN instrument which measures the thickness of paint, chromium plating, or any non-magnetic surface covering on steel or iron, without marking the surface, has been developed.

It consists of a plastic base plate carrying a pivoted arm, something like a small pair of scales. To one end of the arm is attached a permanent magnet. An adjustable weight slides along the other arm, which is graduated.

The magnet is placed against the surface to be measured. The base material being steel or iron it will be attracted to it, despite the paint "insulation." All that the paint skin does is to weaken the magnetic attraction.

The weight is now moved along the graduated arm until a point is found where its counterweight action is strong enough to "unstick" the magnet. The instrument is graduated so that this point on the scale gives the corresponding paint thickness, expressed as a fraction of an inch.

The instrument can be used by car manufacturers, for example, to check the thickness of paint on a finished vehicle.

Coalmine in Kensington

THE Science Museum at South Kensington will soon be displaying a full-scale reproduction part of a coal mine, with cage, haulage roads, and coal-face.

The exhibit will be part of a display designed chiefly for mining technicians and students, though, of course, it will interest the general public. It will cover metal mining and extend over an area of about 8000 square feet in the museum basement.

The development of different aspects of mining practice, including coal-cutting machinery, mine ventilation, winding, and lighting will be shown.

One twenty-foot-long exhibit, with life-size models, shows a rescue team at work building a brick wall to halt a fire in a mine roadway.

At the age of 19 Torricelli went to Rome to study under Castelli, a famous professor of mathematics. There the young man founded the science of hydro-mechanics.



Pioneers 48, TORRICELLI, who gave us the barometer

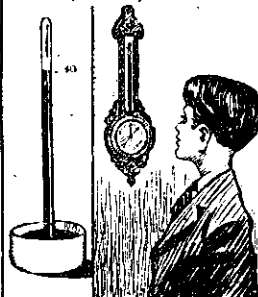
Galileo, then 75, invited Torricelli to live with him in Florence and continue his studies. There he developed his theory that atmospheric pressure arose from the fact that Nature abhors a vacuum.



He proved his theory with the use of mercury. He filled a glass tube, sealed at one end, with mercury, and placed the open end into a bowl partly filled with the same liquid.



Atmospheric pressure on the surface of the mercury in the bowl held the mercury in the tube at a height of 30 inches. The result was the Torricellian Tube—the first instrument devised for the measurement of atmospheric pressure.



James Chalmers, the Mr Greatheart of Papua

FIFTY years ago—on April 7, 1901—a rugged, bearded man of 60 stepped ashore on the island of Goaribari in the Fly River delta of western Papua. His name was James Chalmers, and he was accompanied by another missionary, Oliver Tomkins; and that same night they were both killed by cannibals.

Chalmers had been 35 years in the service of the London Missionary Society in the Pacific and New Guinea when he met his death at the hands of the people he served. In his little Scottish home on Loch Fyne he had dreamed of the far Pacific lands where the untamed savages lived, and his boyhood's ambitions came true when he landed in 1867 on the lovely island of Rarotonga.

On the way out in the missionary ship *John Williams II*

Chalmers was wrecked and lost all his possessions. He was taken on to his destination by Bully Hayes, one of the last of the South Seas pirates, who developed a warm admiration for the young Scot who could splice a rope, take a turn at the wheel, and lead the crew in a rollicking jig.

After ten years of quiet work in training native teachers Chalmers volunteered to take the Gospel to the mainland of New Guinea, and, with his colleague, William G. Lawes, was the first white man to live in the territory. It was then a land of superstition and head-hunting.

The White Man

All along the coast of the great Gulf of Papua crowds flocked to see him dressed in a white suit but with black "feet." Chalmers used to take off his "feet," and show the white skin underneath, to prove he was white all over.

Carrying parcels of hoop-iron, red beads, and cloth, Chalmers went about his missions of friendship with a fearless disregard for his own safety. In nearly every village that Chalmers visited there is now a strong Christian community.

During a visit to Samoa, Chalmers enjoyed the friendship of Robert Louis Stevenson. "He's as big as a church," wrote R. L. S., "with big, bold, black eyes." When they parted R. L. S. sent him a note, "If I had only met you when I was a boy, how different my life would have

been! Your photograph is on my chimney-shelf as large as life." Chalmers had that effect on thousands of people in Britain and Australia, and the New Guinea people held him in awe.

Rain-makers, head-hunters, men in the vast dubu houses, and the laughing fuzzy-haired youngsters on the New Guinea shores all knew Chalmers. His work as peacemaker among the tribes prepared the way for a settled administration of the territory, and his insistence that there should be no compulsory land acquisition, no forced labour, and no intoxicating liquor is respected in the Papuan territory today.

His death in a cannibal orgy gave a martyr's crown to a great life; and the grandson of the man who clubbed James Chalmers to death is now a leader of the Christian Church.

HOME FOR FLYING DUTCHMEN

AN enormous hangar, one of the largest in Europe, is being constructed at Schiphol, Amsterdam's airport. It will be used by KLM to house new Super Constellation airliners. Length of the hangar is 600 feet, and it is 164 feet wide.

Following the KLM practice of naming their hangars after famous pioneer airmen, it will be called the Kingsford Smith hangar, in memory of the great Australian pilot.

TURNING THE BLIND EYE

MONDAY of this week marked the 150th anniversary of the Battle of the Baltic, one of Nelson's three most famous victories. Fought on April 2, 1801, against the combined might of Denmark, Sweden, and Russia, this battle was the inspiration of one of Thomas Campbell's best-known poems; but it is perhaps more memorable for a jest.

The jest was made by Nelson at the expense of his commander, Sir Hyde Parker, who at one stage in the battle signalled his second-in-command to break off the action. The order did not make sense to Nelson who, remembering that an earlier wound had deprived him of the sight of one eye, turned to his captain with the remark: "You know, Foley, I have a right to be blind sometimes." Then, putting his telescope to his sightless eye, he exclaimed: "I really do not see the signal."

So the battle continued and Nelson was justified. The *Dannebrog*, in which was the Danish commodore, having nearly every man on board killed or wounded, took fire, drifted along the line, and blew up. To spare further carnage Nelson offered an armistice, which the Danes were thankful to accept.

Long swim for penguins

WHEN H.M.A.S. *Labuan* returned from Heard Island and berthed at Fremantle recently she had 22 gold-crested Macaroni penguins aboard. The birds were brought to Australia by an Antarctic research expedition to test their homing instincts.

Seven of the birds were either moulting, or showing signs of distress, owing to the unaccustomed heat, and are to be permanently housed at Perth Zoo. Rings were attached to the legs of the remaining 15, and they were then released to make the 2500-mile swim back to their Antarctic home.

Since then some of the birds have returned to Fremantle, and are now in the Zoo.

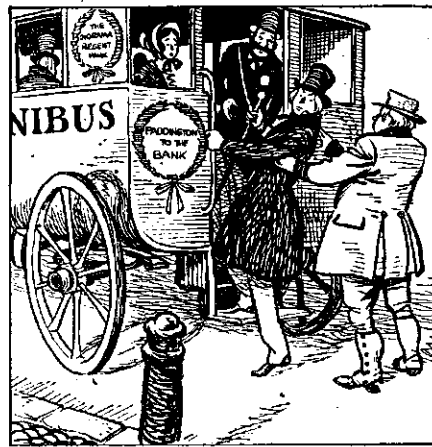
NICHOLAS NICKLEBY—New picture-version of Dickens's great novel (5)



In London, Nicholas found how badly his sister Kate had been treated by their uncle, Ralph Nickleby the moneylender. Anxious to get his mother and Kate out of Ralph's power, he took them to Miss La Creevy, a great friend of Mrs Nickleby's. He sent a letter to his uncle saying, "Your brother's widow and her orphan child spurn the shelter of your roof, and shun you with disgust and loathing."



Nicholas was now faced with the problem of supporting Kate and his mother. He decided against trying to return to the theatrical company; the earnings were too precarious, and he doubted his ability to be a good actor. He went to an employment agency, and while he was scanning the advertisements in the window, he got into conversation with a pleasant, honest-looking, merry-eyed old gentleman.



The old gentleman seemed interested in Nicholas and asked him questions. Ordinarily Nicholas would not have talked about his private affairs to a stranger, but this one seemed so kind, that he told him all his troubles. Then the old gentleman took his arm exclaiming: "Don't say another word," and pushed him into an omnibus. If Nicholas tried to speak the other broke in: "Not another word."



He went with the old gentleman to the City, and was led into a business house bearing the name: Cheeryble Brothers. In an office Nicholas was astonished to see another old gentleman, exactly like the first one. "Brother Ned," said the first, "here is a young friend of mine whom we must assist. We must make proper inquiries into his statements, in justice to him as well as to ourselves."

How will the generous Cheeryble Brothers help Nicholas? See next week's instalment



THE GALLANT THIRD OF MILBOURNE

by GUNBY HADATH

Wanted Immediately (2)



Pettifer, who has ideas of making a name for himself in the business world, composes a letter, with uninvited aid from the Third Form, in reply to an advertisement for a bright and intelligent boy.

MR GRIMMETT'S industrious Third Form sat hard at their work, until suddenly old Maxton looked up from his book. "Sir!" he shot out. "If you please, sir! You told us not to let grass grow under our feet. I don't understand that."

"Indeed!" Mr Grimmatt said dryly. "And hasn't it occurred to you, Maxton, that your habit of not understanding is wholly deplorable?"

"Sir, things go in at one ear and out at the other," sighed Maxton.

But Pettifer sprang to his rescue. "Sir, isn't it true," he demanded, "that if a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well, sir? And that's what you mean, sir, by grass growing under your feet?"

Was young Sprottle to be left out of this vexed debate? His skinny hand and wrist were up like a flag. "Oh, no, sir," he twittered, "oh, no, sir! It doesn't mean that, sir. It means labor omnia vincit, sir, Wheat says."

"Translate!" bade the Grim Bird.

Young Sprottle looked highly aggrieved.

"Sir, it's Wheat who says that," he protested.

"And he shams it's his family motto, sir," Balmforth supplied.

"Which his father cribbed from the Latin Primer," said Jellcombe.

"How do you know?" snapped Wheat. "I mean, sir, he may have done. Naturally. But my grandfather said that we'd had it for ages and ages."

"From William the Conqueror?" asked Balmforth.

"No, before that!" cried Wheat. "It was when the Britons were dressed in wool," he threw in, rejoicing to find himself on firm ground at last.

BUT the ground beneath Mr Grimmatt was visibly quaking. "I despair of you, one and all," he rejoined, groaning deeply. "Such a hopeless collection of boys I have never encountered. I was flattering myself that when you reached my Third Form some of you would display perhaps a spark of intelligence."

"But wouldn't you call me bright and intelligent, sir?" said Pettifer, who had posted his letter to XYZ several days ago without, so far, having received even the barest acknowledgment. "Would you say that I'm bright and intelligent, sir?" he repeated.

"Certainly not," Mr Grimmatt replied most decisively. "And now you can go." For the clock showed a quarter past twelve. "And let me inform you," he added, "how grateful I am that today is Saturday. For I could hardly endure any more of you this week."

His industrious Third Form followed him out of the room.

And, indeed, Mr Grimmatt was grateful that it was Saturday. For although the headmaster's absence for the week-end had left him in charge as the senior man on the staff, this was a trifle which troubled him not in the least. With the First and Second Elevens playing away and so many of the other boys gone to support them, he was looking forward to one of those long afternoons which he loved, with his pipe and a book.

So after dinner Mr Grimmatt repaired to his study, where after he had donned his shabbiest old coat he settled himself at his ease, with his feet on a chair. But presently his book had dropped to his lap; his head was nodding; he was treating himself to a nap. But what was that? A tap on the door. Twice repeated. Yes, someone was there.

"Come in!" he uttered testily. "Yes! Yes! What is it?"

It was Benson, the school porter. "A gentleman to see you, sir."

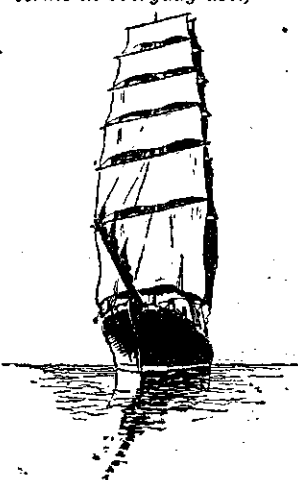
"Didn't you tell him that the headmaster was away, Benson?"

"I did, sir. But he said he couldn't help that, sir. Might he see the master who was taking the Head's place," he said.

"Where is he?"

Sailors say . . .

(The nautical origins of terms in everyday use.)



5. IN THE DOLDRUMS

THE Doldrums is a zone in the tropics between the regions of the trade winds, where calms and variable winds prevail with occasional squalls. In the days of sail a ship might be caught in this part of the ocean and drift to and fro for weeks, usually in terrific heat which caused great discomfort to the crew, especially if water and food ran short.

One often hears the expression used in reference to a feeling of depression or despondency.

"I told him to wait in my lodge, sir, while I went to see whether you were in," Benson answered, with that discretion for which he was famous. "In case you should not desire, sir, to be disturbed."

"Good man!" approved Mr Grimmatt. "Then go back and tell him I'm out." But conscience pricked him. "No! Half a moment!" he bade. "Go back to your lodge and keep him there till I come, Benson."

"Yes, sir," said Benson. "I'll keep him, sir."

SOME worrying parent, of course.

Just as he had feared. With which reflection Mr Grimmatt changed his coat, and picking up his cap and gown from the carpet where so happily he had tossed it a few minutes since, he strode from his House and made his way to the lodge. His cap and gown would show how busy he was, how very few moments, in fact, he could spare for his visitor, who came stepping forth to meet him as he advanced.

"And what can I do for you, sir?" Mr Grimmatt inquired. "The headmaster is away. I'm in charge for the moment."

"Capital!" answered the other, smiling effusively, and whipping out an envelope as he spoke. "I only want to ascertain, Mr Grimmatt, whether this boy is bright and intelligent?"

And now he had drawn a photograph from an envelope. "As he hails from your school I feel sure you can tell me that, sir."

"H'm! Ha!" rejoined Mr Grimmatt, clearing his throat. "Well, of all the boys who have passed through my Third Form, my dear sir, I hardly remember any more bright and intelligent."

"Capital. I had advertised for a bright youth and this boy wrote in reply to me. Perhaps you'll do me the kindness to read it yourself and tell me what you think of it, my dear sir."

And this time it was a letter which followed the photograph.

Respected Sir,

In reply to your esteemed advertisement I beg to offer myself for your post. My family motto being labor omnia vincit, which I always try to live up to with all my might, you will see that I'm a hard worker who never shirks anything.

So awaiting your reply, which I hope will be favourable,

I am, dear Sir,

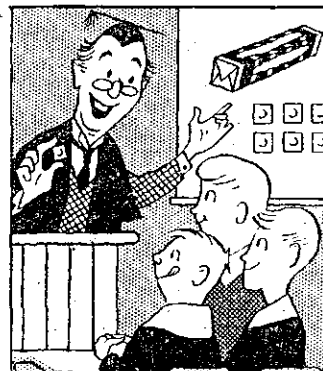
Your faithfully,

LUCIUS E. WHEAT.

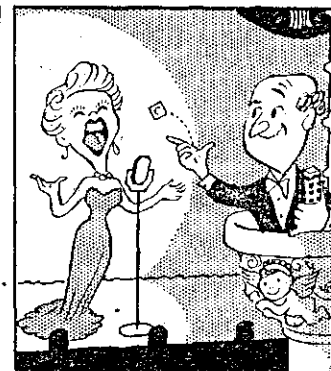
(Oh, perfidious Wheat! Was that why you listened with such rapt attention to Pettifer's letter? Did you intend to follow a business career instead of the life of Law mapped out for you? Or are you being judged too harshly? Perhaps you had already answered the advertisement when Pettifer made known his intentions. Let us hope so.)

The stranger was speaking again.

Continued on page 10



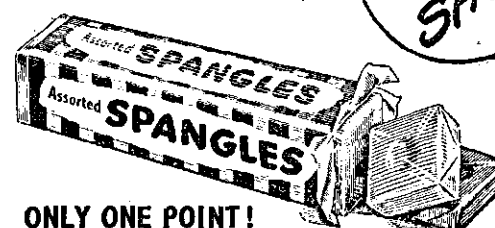
Teachers love SPANGLES



Screechers love SPANGLES



Men outside big double features love SPANGLES

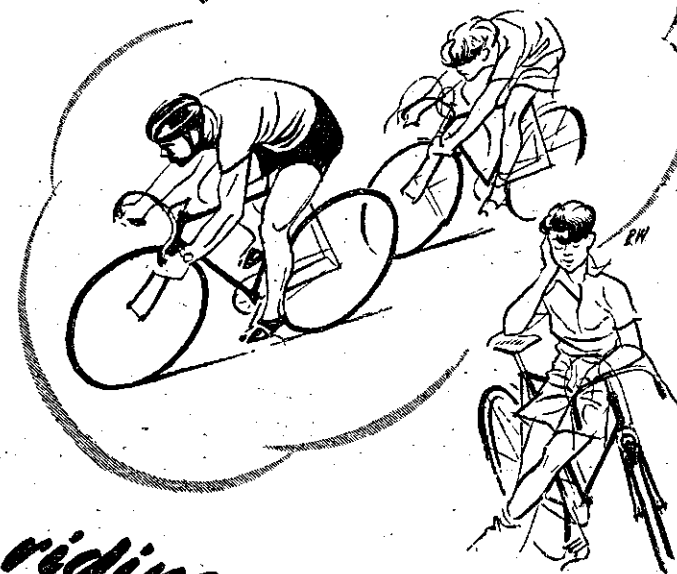


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ONLY ONE POINT!

Made by Mars

You'll never catch
REG HARRIS

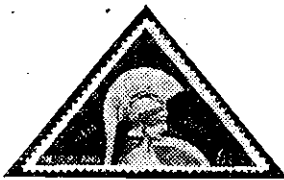


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100 STAMPS FREE

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These delightful stamps are steadily increasing in value and can be looked upon with great pride in any collection. This is an unusual free Gift. Send 3d. for postage and ask for the Coronation packet FREE! Also ask to see our bargain Approvals.

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KG VI BRITISH GUIANA 6c. Pictorials & 50 different WHOLE WORLD—FREE!
These stamps are catalogued at least 4/5, and will be sent to all collectors asking to see my Discount Approvals and enclosing 2½d. stamp for postage.

K. V. FANTOZZI (Section C N),
Hillside, Whitegate, Northwich, Cheshire.

The Gallant Third of Milbourne

Continued from page 9

"And would you say, Mr Grimmett, that this second boy is also to be recommended?" And he produced a letter and a photograph of Pettifer.

"I should," Mr Grimmett responded.

"Capital!" answered the other. "I'll shoot them at once."

"You will what?" Mr Grimmett said, gasping.

"I will shoot them at once," said the stranger with hard resolution.

THEN, terrified as he was, Mr Grimmett saw light. His visitor was a patient newly escaped from the Mental Hospital nearby. Attendants might be after him at any moment, and meanwhile it was up to himself to detain him.

"There! There!" he said soothingly. "There, there, my dear fellow. Yes, certainly we must shoot those two when they return. And, in the meantime, what about a nice little walk? And as he spoke he was edging the man towards the lodge.

But the other resisted and pulled out a visiting card. "I don't know for whom you mistake me, sir," he said sharply. "So I had better introduce myself, perhaps. There you are, then."

And now Mr Grimmett found his eyes amply regaled.

THE WIDE WORLD FILM CORPORATION

New York and Barbados

British Representative,
GEORGE VINCENT HONEYMAN.

BEDTIME CORNER

Tibby and Spot

WHEN Tibby the kitten was given to Susan as a present, Spot disgraced himself.

Spot was a jolly little terrier, but he did not like Tibby a bit; he barked loudly as soon as he saw her.

Susan was so afraid that Spot would hurt the kitten that she put him out into the garden, and there he had to stay.

Then one morning Susan woke up and heard such a commotion downstairs. She hurried down and saw Tibby ready to spring, her eyes flashing, her back humped, and her claws out. That rascal Spot was scampering round her, barking loudly.

Susan was scared her little kitten would get hurt. She ran forward.

"Leave them alone, Susan,"

"You see, sir," Mr Honeyman was explaining, "we are setting to work on a picture which shall mirror the life in one of your famous Public Schools, and I have been charged with finding two typical scholars. Accordingly, I inserted a little advertisement, as probably you have gathered from those two boys' letters. And now, sir—" He paused. "Now we'll take a shot of yourself, sir. In your cap and gown? Yes, I think so; charmingly professional."

Thus pronouncing, he emitted a shrill, piercing whistle; and there rushed in from the roadside, where he had been lurking, an agile young man with a film camera and a tall tripod.

"I will not keep you for more than a moment," he told Mr Grimmett.

How truly he spoke! For the Grim Bird had collared him low, and flung him to the ground without any compunction. Then, with Benson, who had rushed from his lodge to assist, he was picked up and thrown through the gates, complete with camera and tripod and George Vincent Honeyman.

"And that," observed Mr Grimmett, wiping his hands, "is the end of that, Benson."

"Yes, sir," said Benson.

But Mr Grimmett refrained from disclosing as well that it was also the end of the ambitions of two of his Third Form pupils.

Next week's story concerns the founding of a Third Form journal. Order your CN now.

SPRING IS HERE

THE hedgerows are white with blackthorn, Anemones sway in the breeze. From the golden palm of the willows Comes the murmur of humbees. Primrose and violet nestle On the sheltered bank by the lane, In the elm trees the rooks are calling. And Springtime is here again.

A CORNER OF THEIR OWN



In the "toddlers' corner" of Bermondsey Central Library, London

The Children's Newspaper, April 7, 1951

AMAZING VALUE!

ANGLERS SET

ONLY 5/11

POST 6/-

This complete Angler's Set is really a MAZING VALUE. Comprises well-finished 3-piece ferruled varnished Rod, approx. 6 ft. 10 in., with metal eye, line, Hooks, Weights, well-balanced Float and Bait Box. The materials were purchased before the enormous rise, enabling us to offer it at the remarkably low price of 5/11 (post 6d.). Send NOW 6/5 P.O. (address below).

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Comprises ALL necessary parts for simple assembly to make this working Electric Motor. Great technical, instructive and entertaining boy's toy. Complete with diagrams and easy directions. Send P.O. 3/2 (address below).

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With this Cabinet containing sets of specially prepared cards you can perform a number of astounding tricks (including the famous mystifying "Three Card Trick") which appear impossible but are easy to do with the simple instructions supplied. You will be the Lion of the Party and the envy of your friends. Send NOW 4/3 P.O. to:

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(Dept. CN 26), "Larkhill," 237 Hartford Road, Davenham, Northwich, Cheshire.

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A fine unused set of New Zealand Victory stamps showing Lake Matheson, King George VI and Parliament, and St. Paul's Cathedral with the Union Jack in the background, a quotation from one of Mr. Churchill's great Battle of Britain speeches, and the V sign, designs truly symbolising the sources of Peace, Strength and Victory, sent free to all applicants for Approvals enclosing 2½d. postage.

R. D. Harrison, Roydon, Ware

VIRGIN IS.

West Indies FREE

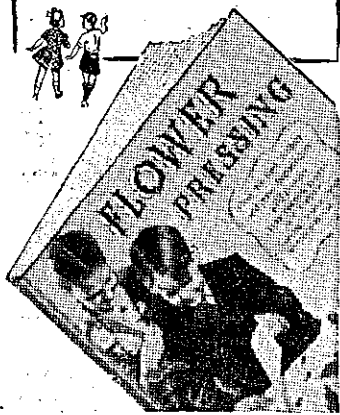
This scarce stamp FREE to all asking for our discount Approvals and enclosing 3d. stamp. An opportunity to obtain a fine large stamp. Write today.

R. & E. Williams
(Dept. CN)

44 Dartmouth Road, London, N.W.2

The Children's Newspaper, April 7, 1951

This book makes every walk an ADVENTURE



HUNT the wild flower and keep it beautiful and colourful for ever! This new book brings an exciting hobby up-to-date. How, where and when to find 38 attractive, common wild flowers—and how to press them and mount them, told in 24 illustrated pages by S. Francis Blackwell. A full colour portrait of each flower makes naming them easy, and a special drying paper section in the book gives you the means to press your specimens as soon as you get home.

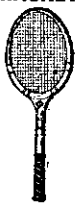
NATURE SCRAP BOOK. Ideal for mounting flower pressings—1/6

3/6 from all booksellers or if any difficulty, 3/9 post free from:

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OUTSTANDING TENNIS RACKET

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THOMAS BRITTON OF MERRIE ENGLAND

THIS is an important year for delightful old Higham Ferrers in Northamptonshire; it is the 700th anniversary of the little town's receiving its charter as a borough, and celebrations are to be held in June as part of the Festival of Britain.

The first charter has been lost, but another document of 1251 gives a list of citizens with such quaint names as Miles the Butcher, Margaret in Lane, and Hugh at the Gate of the Church.

The town's most famous son was Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury and founder of All Souls, Oxford. He never forgot his native town and founded a college there in 1422. This was suppressed by Henry the Eighth and until recently was part of a farm, with fowls picking their way over the stones where canons, clerks, and choristers once paced to and fro. It has now been taken over by the Ministry of Works.

Another renowned son of Higham Ferrers was Thomas Britton, a unique character who sold coal by day and rejoiced in music, science, and literature at night. Matthew Prior wrote of him:

*Though doomed to small coal, yet to arts allied,
Rich without wealth, and famous without pride;*

The King's England volume of Northants tells us that Britton was born at Higham Ferrers, in Commonwealth times, and came to London to start a coal business in a stable. Over the stable he established a concert room with an organ on which Handel used to play. The concerts over the coalshed became famous, and dukes and duchesses were often among the audiences.

Ballad that kept Scott awake

SIR WALTER SCOTT'S elegant manuscript, of one of his earliest poems, *William and Helen*, has been acquired by the National Library of Scotland. It is a ballad far from being one of his best, and is a translation of a German poem called *Lenore*, by Gottfried Augustus Bürger.

Young Scott heard in 1796 that a translation of *Lenore* had been made by William Taylor of Norwich, and he was taken with the idea of trying his own hand at it. He set to work after supper, finished the poem that night, and then could not sleep.

It is a grisly story about a young woman, Helen, who is overwhelmed by grief because her lover has not returned from the Crusades, and rails against "ruthless Heaven." Her mother reproaches her for this, but Helen continues her unseemly lamentation and meets a strange fate.

Her lover, William, arrives in the middle of the night and tells her to mount at once behind him on his black horse, as she is to be his bride before dawn. Away they go, followed, somewhat to her bewilderment, by an assortment of corpses who have been invited by William to the marriage feast.

At last they reach a churchyard, where ghosts rustle like autumn leaves, and they pull up by an open grave. There

SPORTS SHORTS

MAIDENHEAD GRAMMAR SCHOOL is proud of the fact that two of its boys have gained English international honours during the last few days. Allan Silver was chosen to play for England's schoolboys against Wales, and Brian Collis, who left Maidenhead Grammar School 12 months ago, has been capped for English Boys' Clubs against the Scots. Both are goalkeepers.

THREE England captains and the skipper of the Commonwealth team that spent the winter in India are to form the Selection Committee for the forthcoming Test matches with South Africa. They are: Norman Yardley (Yorkshire), who will be chairman; R. E. S. Wyatt (Worcestershire); Freddy Brown (Northants); and Leslie Ames (Kent).

FRANK EDWARDS of Stourbridge recently won the English amateur billiards championship for the third year running. Next October Frank Edwards will endeavour to win the British Empire amateur billiards title for the first time. It is 16 years since an Englishman won this championship, which is equivalent to a world title.

ANOTHER "hat trick" of triumphs was recorded a few weeks ago by Laurence Allen, of Sheffield United Harriers, when he secured his third successive victory in the National 10-mile road-walking championship. Laurie may be one of our brightest prospects for the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

THE British Open Squash Rackets Championship begins in London this week. Mahmoud El Karim of Egypt will be attempting to win the title for the fifth successive time and equal the record held by his famous countryman, Amr Bey, Egyptian Ambassador to this country from 1932 to 1937.

William's helmet and breastplate vanish, and the horse disappears with a bound, depositing her (one can't help imagining) rather roughly on the ground. Then pale howling spectres point the moral:

*E'en when the heart's with anguish cleft,
Reverse the doom of Heaven!*

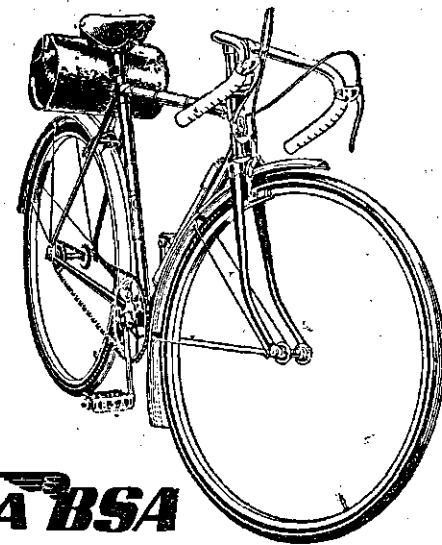
But the fair Helen has, as we should say, "passed out," and no wonder. No wonder, too, that young Walter Scott couldn't sleep after translating such morbid stuff. Nevertheless, there are lines even in this early poem which show the touch of genius which was afterwards to make him immortal.

MORE BISHOPS FOR AFRICA

FIVE dioceses will be added to the Anglican Church on April 17 when the Archbishop of Canterbury will inaugurate the new Province of West Africa.

The ceremony will take place in Freetown Cathedral, before eleven bishops (four of them Africans), four African chancellors, nine or ten archdeacons, and clergy and laity from every part of British West Africa. The first act of the new synod will be to elect one of their number to be the first archbishop of West Africa.

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THE BRAN TUB

Contented?

PADDY was being interviewed for a job.
"Have you any references?" asked the manager.

"Certainly. Here's a letter from my last firm: 'To whom it may concern. Paddy Smith worked here for one week, and we are satisfied.'"

Countryside flowers

THE bleak hedgerows of March and April are often suddenly brightened by patches of snowy Blackthorn blossom. The gleaming white flowers, which appear before the leaves and contrast so sharply with the black bark of the branches, possess five petals and many yellow stamens.

Blackthorn is a species of wild plum and a member of the rose family. Walking-sticks are made from the branches; the leaves are sometimes used to make tea; while the fruit, usually known as sloes, makes excellent preserves.

Salt's story

SAID an old salt named Anthony Rees,
"I have seen some odd sights on the seas,
But the strangest I saw,
Was one night while ashore—
Seven elephants shelling green peas."

Pocket money

A BOY said to the shop assistant: "If you give me as much money as I've got in my pocket I'll spend sixpence in your shop." The man accepted.

The boy went to another shop and again offered to spend sixpence if the assistant would give him the amount he had in his pocket. This assistant also accepted.

A third shopkeeper also accepted the offer, and when the boy came out of the third shop he had left in his pocket—nothing! How much had he in his pocket when he went into the first shop?

Answer next week

Answer next week

"To get ahead get a hat," thinks Bouncer



ONE gusty day Jacko and Chimp were passing by the Town Hall when a car drew up and the Mayor stepped out. They gazed with awe at the Mayor's finery. "I think I'll be a Mayor when I'm older," said Jacko. "I'd love to wear one of those hats." At that moment the beautiful hat was whipped off the Mayor's head and went bowling down the street with our heroes in hot pursuit. They both made a dive for it—only to be beaten by a short head by Bouncer, who made off with it. If the Mayor's remarks about Jacko and his dog are remembered in years to come there is little chance of Jacko achieving his ambition!

Impatient

THE man had spent the whole morning watching an angler sitting by the river's edge. Then the angler spoke to him.

"Do you fish?" he asked.
"Oh, no," replied the onlooker, "I haven't the patience."

RODDY



"It looks as if you are in for a rough time, Jimmy!"

Enigma

FIVE letters, please. I am
A lion, then a lamb.
If head and tail change place
I'm amulet of grace.

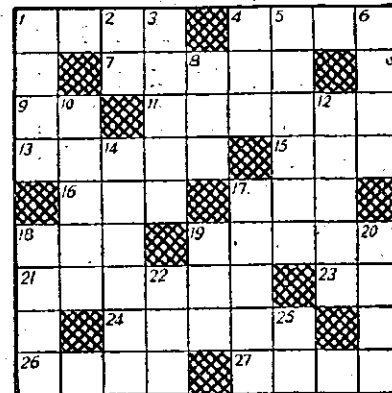
Answer next week

Crossword puzzle

Reading across: 1 Commanded. 4 Magnesium silicate. 7 Willow used in basket-work. 9 Behold! 11 Slumbers. 13 Commonplace. 15 A fisherman uses one. 16 Speak. 17 Obstruct. 18 Strike. 19 Sticky substance from pine tree. 21 Stage whispers. 23 French article. 24 Regulate. 26 Very minute. 27 Relate.

Reading down: 1 A tulip grows from one. 2 Perform. 3 Attempt. 4 Golfers use one. 5 Battlefields. 6 Throw. 8 Unwell. 10 Fertile spot in desert. 12 Danger. 14 Race. 17 Set upon. 18 Stop. 19 Warm colour. 20 To be hit on the head. 22 Arid. 25 Royal Engineers (abbrev).

Answer next week



Disappointed

Why did the whale wall
And lash out its tail?
Because twas too late
To see the skate skate.

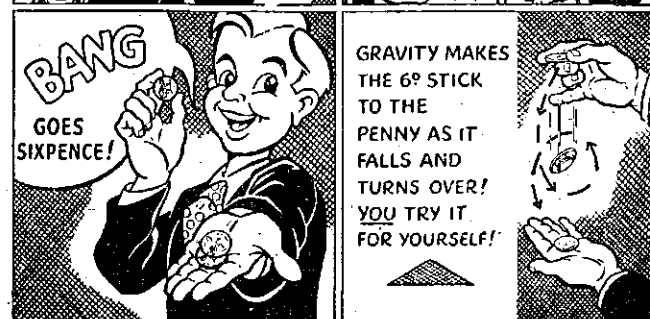
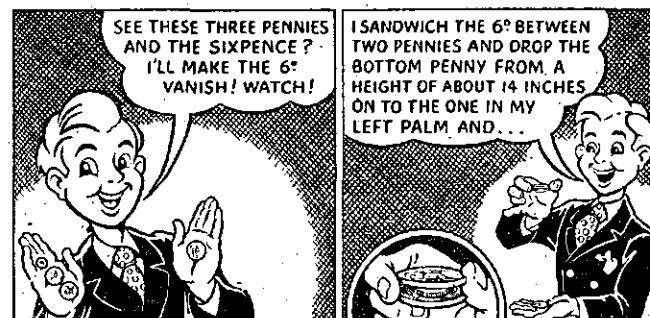
Last week's answers

Riddle-my-name: Florence

Arithmetical problem: 100, 200, 300, 400

Divided word: Be-am

TRICK TIME for Rowntree's Gumsters



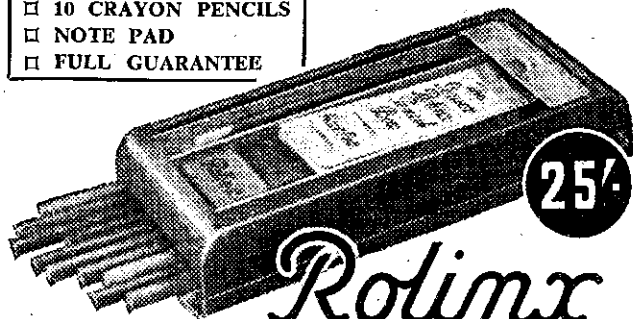
No need to ask a Gumster to try Rowntree's Fruit Gums. Every Gumster knows that a tube is full of delicious fruit flavours that won't vanish for ages!



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Farmer Gray explains

Jackdaws. Several pairs of black plumaged birds fluttered about the ruins of the old tower. "They are too small for rooks; what are they?" Don asked Farmer Gray.

"Jackdaws," replied the farmer. "They are about sixteen inches long. Besides being smaller than rooks, their heads have a greyish tint, but this is not noticeable from a distance. Jackdaws often nest in colonies, although not in such large numbers as rooks. Hairs from horses and cows are used to line the nests."

"When jackdaws build a nest in a hole they sometimes amass huge quantities of rag or paper to raise their nest to the required height."

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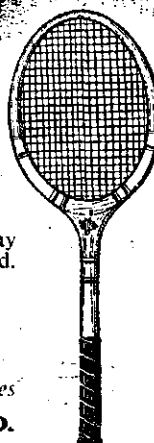
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